

Little Duffau Creek (1226K) Recreational Use Attainability Analysis Summary and Recommendation

A recreational use attainability analysis (RUAA) was conducted on Little Duffau Creek (1226K) in the summer of 2009 to determine the appropriate recreational use and numeric criteria. Little Duffau Creek is an unclassified intermittent water body in Erath County, TX, approximately 14 miles in length. It is currently listed on the 2014 Texas Clean Water Act Section 303(d) List of Impaired Water Bodies due to elevated bacteria levels. It was initially listed in 2006.

The RUAA identified evidence indicating the designated use of primary contact recreation (PCR) for the Little Duffau Creek is appropriate. PCR is defined in §307.3 (a)(47) of the Texas Surface Water Quality Standards as activities that are presumed to involve a significant risk of ingestion of water (e.g. wading by children, swimming, water skiing, diving, tubing, surfing, and the following whitewater activities: kayaking, canoeing, and rafting).

During the field surveys, field staff did not observe any type of recreation occurring on the stream. Three interviews conducted with local residents also stated that they did not use the stream for PCR. However, public comment submitted on the RUAA report found that several families around Little Duffau Creek used it for swimming and wading by children when they would hold barbeques along the stream. Physical characteristics of the stream include an average thalweg of 0.28 meters (11.02 in), pools greater than one meter deep and had an average flow of 0.27 cubic feet per second. Public access is described as very limited with the stream flowing through private land in a rural area.

Due to evidence collected during the RUAA determining that primary contact recreation is an existing use, the TCEQ recommends Little Duffau Creek retain its primary contact recreation use and corresponding *E. coli* geometric mean criteria of 126 colonies/100mL for all of Little Duffau Creek, from its confluence with Duffau Creek, upstream to its headwaters 2.4 miles south west of US 67 in Erath County in accordance with §307.4 (j) (1) of the Texas Surface Water Quality Standards.